

ON CUE

BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY



Above: Kelton Pell, Mackenzie Dunn and Jacob Allan in *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (2018). Images by Philip Gostelow.

INSIDE



SWANS IN THE WILD



IN THE REGIONS



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Collaboration is integral to what we do and we were delighted to start the year off with the world premiere *You Know We Belong Together*, a Perth Festival and DADAA co-production. It was a ground breaking new work and we were pleased to work with our peers in winning over the hearts and minds of Perth audiences. Driven by WA artist Julia Hales, the production was a theatrical celebration of the power of love,

The season so far has been full of great “conversations”.

the pursuit of dreams and living with Down syndrome. It was a perfect start to Artistic Director Clare Watson’s vision by giving a voice to a community who are often unheard.

Our triumphant beginning was followed shortly by a remount of *The Lighthouse Girl*. This year, the story of Fay Howe was shared with regional audiences across seven towns in the Great Southern, Kimberley, Goldfields, Pilbara, Peel and Wheatbelt regions of WA, playing to 2,621 patrons. Special thanks to the State Government for making the tour possible through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. More on page four!

This May we presented our first pairing with *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and *Hir*. The Australian classic coupled with Taylor Mac’s outrageous comedy presented ‘unconventional lives’ and certainly sparked conversation. It was wonderful to see the theatre abuzz during the season, which

included special activation events: The Doll Extended Dinner Interval and a panel discussion on “Talking FIFO and DIDO”. Last month hit us with the glorious power of music, as *Assassins* and *The Events* took the stage. This pairing immersed us in soul, harmonies and healing. Special thanks to the extraordinary 13-strong ensemble from *Assassins* and the six dynamic Perth community choirs who volunteered to join us in *The Events*.

Recently, we held our Chair’s Dinner. This annual event is a special occasion that celebrates the collaborations that occur behind the scenes – the support of our business, government and philanthropy partners. The dinner also presented a formal opportunity to farewell our outgoing Chair Mark Barnaba AM and welcome Nicola Forrest into the Chair’s role, with Alan Cransberg stepping into the Deputy Chair. Nicola has been a member of the board since late 2013 and has been a key supporter of the company for many years, including the number one subscriber in 2013. Nicola’s

appointment marks a momentous period, as the only state theatre company in the country to have an entirely female leadership team.

In addition to this success, we reflect upon our key achievements of 2017. The past year included 140 performances in the State Theatre Centre, six writers nurtured in the Emerging Writers Group, ten emerging artists supported, one international tour and twelve access initiatives. A total of 9,139 subscriber tickets were sold across the season and this is largely a credit to you, our loyal subscriber base. As I write this, we have achieved 93 per cent of our sales target for the current year – this couldn’t be done without you!

This year of ‘The Conversations’ has already enriched and enlivened our community. With three shows to go, including two world premieres, we can certainly say there’s more excitement in store!

Natalie Jenkins
Executive Director

Photos: Skylab creative development images by Dana Weeks.



COMING SOON



2019 SEASON LAUNCH
27 AUGUST



IN THE NEXT ROOM, OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY
20 OCTOBER – 04 NOVEMBER



XENIDES
25 OCTOBER – 11 NOVEMBER

SWANS IN THE WILD

Theatre is a great place to learn and Black Swan is committed to providing quality arts experiences to students in Western Australia and beyond. Earlier this year, a vivacious young student from the United Kingdom contacted our Wardrobe Manager Lynn Ferguson. Sophie Wilkinson is studying Costume Design with Textiles at the University of Huddersfield in England. She was interested in professional learning while undertaking her course and we were fortunate to have her with us for five weeks at the Black Swan workshop. Under Lynn’s direction, Sophie’s internship included work on the musical *Assassins* and the 31 costumes this required!



When did you decide this was the career for you?

I go to the cinema every week with my mum and we always talk about the costumes at the end. That’s when I realised that I didn’t just want to watch the costumes on a screen, I wanted to design and make them.

Why did you choose to do your internship with Black Swan?

Perth is such an exciting place for performing arts as you have a ballet, opera and many theatres. So, when I was looking at places to do my internship I looked at which company did a variety of production and that made the majority of the costumes in house and Black Swan ticked all of those boxes.

Who are some of the costume designers you admire?

I love Michele Clapton’s work from *Game of Thrones*. Each of the costumes has so much detail, I love that she puts so much thought into all the characters costumes.

What were some of the favourite things you did in Perth over the last six weeks?

The coffee and the beaches!!!



Recently one of our wonderful long-time subscribers, Barbara King, travelled to Germany. We were delighted to hear a part of her inspiration to visit Berlin was sparked after seeing our production of *I Am My Own Wife* in 2017. Those that joined us for the stellar season will remember the story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf (1928 – 2002), born Lothar Berfelde, a German who identified as a transvestite. Charlotte founded ‘the museum of everyday items (the Gründerzeit Museum) after World War II.

As an adolescent, Charlotte cleared furniture from the homes of exiled Jews, that had been sent to concentration camps as part of the Nazi regime. Though the work was unsettling, it reinforced her passion for collecting artefacts, furniture and what was often regarded as mundane or commonplace items. As her collection grew, she restored a run-down manor and opened the Gründerzeit Museum. Through the 1960s, the museum became especially popular as she refurbished the cellar into the *Mulackritze*, an infamous Weimar-period bar.

Charlotte remains a prominent figure in history, for her dedication to preserve antiques and her alliance with the gay community.

Barbara was kind enough to share her experience with us.

“Prior to a visit to Berlin in April-May this year, we contacted our friends and asked them if they could find out about Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, as we would like to visit her museum. This was prompted by the play we saw at Black Swan last year, *I Am My Own Wife*.

After several emails back and forth, the penny finally dropped. “Oh, we know who you are talking about.” Peter, who grew up

in East Germany, knew him/her as both Lothar and Charlotte, and Nicole, who has been living in Berlin for about 30 years, had met her later as Charlotte. They had even had Charlotte as their tour guide on one of their tours of the Gründerzeit Museum in Mahlsdorf. Wow, we were excited.

My first ‘task’ on arriving in Berlin was to read Peter’s copy of Charlotte’s autobiography. I have to say it was full of far more (and juicier) details than covered in the play! We caught the S-bahn and then cycled to the house in Mahlsdorf, where we joined a tour half way through. We then followed along with the next tour to see the bits we had missed, and found it so fascinating we finished that one too. The house is full of interesting furnishings, including working ‘music machines’. The interior of the legendary “*Mulackritze*” bar from Berlin’s Scheunenviertel district was completely rebuilt in the basement of the museum.

The hallway of the house was lined with posters of the play ‘I Am My Own Wife’ which had been performed in various other places around the world. Sometime soon Black Swan’s own poster will be joining the others! Thank you, Black Swan!”

Barbara King



Clockwise L-R: Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, the Gründerzeit Museum, Brendan Hanson (*I Am My Own Wife*, 2017. Image by Daniel James Grant).

THE LIGHTHOUSE GIRL

2018 WA REGIONAL TOUR

We are incredibly proud to have toured Hellie Turner’s *The Lighthouse Girl* to seven regional venues across the state as a part of the ANZAC Centenary commemorations. The touring party travelled approx. 8,000 kilometres performing to 2,621 audience members at Esperance Civic Centre, Albany Entertainment Centre, Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, Cummins Theatre - Merredin, Matt Dann Theatre & Cinema - Port Hedland, Red Earth Arts Precinct – Karratha and Broome Civic Centre. These venues cover the Great Southern, Kimberley, Goldfields, Pilbara, Peel and Wheatbelt regions of WA.

The tour was an incredible opportunity for regional audiences to engage in the production and to share in a sense of pride in seeing a local story on stage. The production had great attendance throughout the tour, with a sold out show on its final performance in Broome.

The Lighthouse Girl is based on a true story that all Western Australians can be proud of. Fay, a young girl, lives an isolated life with her lighthouse keeper father on the bleak, windswept Breaksea Island in King George Sound, Albany. With the outbreak of war in 1914, Fay finds purpose in transcribing Morse code and semaphore messages from soldiers stationed off shore, becoming their last hope of communicating to their loved ones before heading to the front line. On the other side of the country in rural Victoria, Charlie and his best mate Jim abandon the outback for the excitement and adventure of seeing the world. As soldiers in the Light Horse Brigade, they quickly discover the brutal realities of war.

This gentle play entwines the lives of Fay and Charlie and brings to life the stories of those left at home during the war waiting, wondering, hoping; and the struggles of the young men who valiantly enlisted to help defend their country. Based on Albany author Dianne Wolfer’s wonderful novels *Lighthouse Girl* and *Light Horse Boy*, and adapted by WA writer Hellie Turner, *The Lighthouse Girl* is an evocatively written play that embodies a powerful and truthful sense of a pivotal time in Australia’s development as a nation.

As part of the tour there were opportunities for a variety of community engagement activities. In Merredin the company offered a community writer’s workshop run by Hellie Turner and a playwright and cast meet and greet. In Broome two school workshops were held and a community writer’s workshop. In Port Hedland, the company held a school workshop run by the show’s director, Stuart Halusz.

The importance of ANZAC stories is undeniable, but the enormous depth and gravity of this story is illustrated by the immense support and warmth of our audiences across the state. We welcomed a bus load of patrons who drove two hours from Ravensthorpe to Esperance, sold out our final show in Broome, welcomed the real Fay Howe’s entire family on ANZAC eve in Mandurah and enjoyed a visit from our Chair Nicola Forrest and Executive Director Natalie Jenkins to the new state of the art Red Earth Arts Precinct in Karratha.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all our incredible servicemen and women, past and present. *The Lighthouse Girl* was a very special reminder of how a single story can bring together a community. The production was developed as part of the Anzac Centenary commemorations (2014-18), with support from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund.

“This is a uniquely Western Australian story, written by a wonderful Western Australian writer that is shared at a very special time of the year, where we remember and commemorate the Anzac story.”

**David Templeman,
Minister for Culture and the Arts**

“I was at the Esperance performance – it was simply wonderful. The actors were all so good and drew me into the story that what was on stage became reality. Bravo!”

Audience member

“Outstanding storytelling and performances that had the audience enthralled – wonderful for all ages.”

Audience member



Above: Cast of *The Lighthouse Girl* at Red Earth Arts Precinct, Karratha.



Above: Cast of *The Lighthouse Girl* at WA Silo Trail (Art displayed by Kyle Hughes-Odgers).



Above: Howe family with members of *The Lighthouse Girl* cast at Mandurah Performing Arts Centre.

LOTTERYWEST LIVE BROADCAST

On 18 May, 2018 it was our great pleasure to present our eighth Lotterywest Live Broadcast to audiences across Western Australia. This year showcased the beloved Australian classic, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* by Ray Lawler. Lotterywest has been invaluable in supporting the broadcast and strengthening our ties to the regions, enabling Black Swan to film and broadcast a live performance of one of our productions, in high definition, from the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia to communities across the metropolitan area, regional and remote WA, as far reaching as the Cocos Keeling Islands, Broome and Esperance.

Black Swan’s commitment to broadcasting in HD is an important point of distinction from other WA performing arts companies who also broadcast to the regions. The quality of the broadcast reflects the production’s true design values and gives regional audiences the most tangible experience of being in the State Theatre Centre, experiencing our wonderful sets, costumes and the full production qualities.

In 2018 the broadcast was received by the following 19 regional and metropolitan venues:

Sun Pictures - Broome, The New Lyric Theatre - Bunbury, Weld Theatre - Busselton, Boston Brewing Co. - Denmark, Esperance Civic Centre, Queens Park Theatre - Geraldton, Harvey Recreation and Cultural Centre, Goldfields Arts Centre - Kalgoorlie, Margaret River Senior High School, Cummins Theatre - Merredin, Moora Performing Arts Centre, Northam Senior High School, Three Springs Community Hall, Tom Price Arts and Cultural Centre, Wickham Picture Gardens, Cyril Jackson Senior Campus, Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre, Northbridge Piazza and Dutch Trading Co. - Victoria Park

The broadcast was also screened by 23 Community Resource Centres (CRCs).

Augusta, Bencubbin, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Bruce Rock, Brunswick Junction, Cocos Islands, Dalwallinu, Donnybrook, Dowerin, Katanning, Lancelin, Nannup, Norseman, Northcliffe, Quairading, Shark Bay, Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Toodyay, Wagin, Walpole, West Arthur, York.

A welcome from Black Swan’s Artistic Director, Clare Watson, and Lotterywest Board Member, Miriam Borthwick preceded the performance, addressing both the Heath Ledger Theatre audience and those watching simultaneously across the state. In the intermission a special documentary showcasing conversations with locals from Tom Price and Donnybrook also featured, offering a unique and special opportunity to share an insight into these communities and promote conversation. It was a wonderful unifying experience.

By virtue of distance and the cost of travel to Perth to attend theatre, people living in regional and remote areas of our state are disadvantaged from regular access to high quality theatre experiences. Metropolitan audiences may also be disadvantaged by socio-economic factors, which limits their access to live theatre.

Access to high quality theatre is also extremely valuable for students and this year we had approximately 190 patrons watching the broadcast from educational venues. Students in Kalgoorlie, Margaret River and Bassendean also had access to theatre workshops delivered by three of our exemplary teaching staff; Thomas Papathanassiou, Libby Klysz and Julia Moody. We were represented across metropolitan venues by Black Swan’s Tertiary and Metro Ambassadors; Isa Cammerano, Adam DiTullio, Maddy Jolly Fuentes, Madison Gracie and Justin Mossel Crossley.

Across both metro and regional venues, we have received great feedback from venues and audiences alike, a testament not only to the quality of the production and broadcast, but to the real value we place on Australian stories. We are thrilled to see such high engagement, generating a sense of community among audiences across the state.

“The broadcast worked really well as did the sound (everyone spontaneously cheered when our name was read out!) and people commented that they had to keep reminding themselves that they weren’t actually at the performance. That’s very positive and builds a great foundation for future broadcasts. I am really appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of the event in Harvey and thank Black Swan State Theatre Company and Lotterywest for making it all possible.”

David Marshall, Harvey Recreation & Cultural Centre Manager

“Loved the simulcast tonight of Summer of the Seventeenth Doll. Whilst I try to get to Perth to see as many shows as I can, the cost of travel and accommodation make it difficult for those of us in regional centres. I know a simulcast is never a replacement for live theatre, but tonight in Bunbury we were all captivated by the performance. I loved the show and I am amazed by how the issues conveyed are still so relevant today. What a joy to see such an amazing production! Thanks to cast and creatives for including us country folk in the experience.”

Cherie Fielder, Bunbury Resident

“In some ways, it’s even better than seeing it live, because the camera gives you close-ups and shows the actors’ faces like you wouldn’t normally see at the back of a theatre,” she said. “It was definitely something the community was missing and the simulcast gives regional people the chance to see Perth productions without needing to travel all that way.”

Cathy Ziersch, Acting Up Operations Coordinator, Busselton.



Above: Dutch Trading Company, Victoria Park. (Image by Duncan Wright).

Bites & drinks are just around the corner.

See you either side of the show.

SHADOW

WINE BAR

shadowwinebar.com.au

214 William St, Northbridge

Instagram: @shadowwinebar

Open: Mon - Sun: Noon - Late

Reservations and walk-ins welcome

KPMG

Embracing the Arts, enriching WA

Storytelling is essential to creating an inspiring culture for everyone to embrace. That is why KPMG is proud to support the Black Swan State Theatre Company.

KPMG.com.au

© 2018 KPMG, an Australian partnership. All rights reserved. 241726789FIRM.

FITTER. FASTER. BETTER.

This is a boot camp for adults run by children during the October school holidays. An intergenerational project as part of 2018 AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things.

PART LIVE ART EXPERIENCE, PART GAME, PART WORK OUT

Get ready to sweat! Do you remember the days when exercise was fun and you could run around the park for hours?

FITTER. FASTER. BETTER. is a boot camp performance like no other. Where your personal trainer isn't a gym junkie but rather an enthusiastic 8 to 10 year-old. Enrol your child in three full-day workshops in drama, dance routines and craft activities by Black Swan teaching artists

These workshops will culminate in 30 minute interactive public performances with adult participation. Fun and infectious - let your kids take charge and let your body move to the groove.

STUDENT ONLY workshops & performances \$100 per child
Mon, Tue, Wed 1-3 Oct
9am to 2.30pm
The Chapel Space, 117 Angove St, North Perth

ADULTS ONLY Bootcamp performances \$20
Thu 4 & Fri 5 Oct
11am & 11.30am
Wetlands stage, next to the Art Gallery of WA
Visit www.bsstc.com.au for more information and booking details.

Principal Partner: Rio Tinto
Project Partner: Tianqi Lithium
Regional Tour Sponsors: Chevron, Water Corporation, Thrifty Car & Truck Rental.
Metro Tour Supporters: Crown Resorts Foundation, Packer Family Foundation.

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



To be a part of the Black Swan family is a privilege and something that provided me with a unique artistic experience that is unobtainable anywhere else. My time here started because my teacher submitted a Student Ambassador form nominating me to represent the company back in 2016 in which I successfully was selected to represent the company at a high school level. This entailed supporting and advertising the company to all fellow students and promoting students and even teachers to independently attend the theatre and cultivate a new and blooming youth audience.

This year I was lucky enough to be taken back by the company and elected as a Tertiary Ambassador, representing Edith Cowan University (ECU). I have spoken to many pre-service teachers encouraging them to come to the theatre and watch the many amazing productions that Black Swan can offer to them and students. Subsequently, this encourages future students to come to the theatre and provide a self-sustaining life cycle. I believe that Black Swan State Theatre Company has mastered being able to accommodate theatre for all ages and will continue to thrive as the flagship theatre company in WA, truly meeting their mission statement. "World Class Theatre, Made in WA."

Adam Di Tullio

PLAYING YOUR PART

To learn more about how you can support Black Swan please contact our Philanthropy team on (08) 6212 9300 or donate@bsstc.com.au. To donate now please visit www.bsstc.com.au/donate.



Photos: FITTER. FASTER. BETTER. pilot (2017). By Rebecca Mansell.

Let the Right One In: 'Gloriously performed...a shining star in recent theatrical history'



Photo: Ian Michael and Sophia Forrest, *Let the Right One In* (2017). By Daniel James Grant.

Summer of the Seventeenth Doll: 'Fine acting and standout staging'



Photo: Amy Mathews and Alison van Reeken, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (2018). By Philip Gostelow.

You Know We Belong Together: 'Joyous experience of the rarest kind'



Photo: Julia Hales, *You Know We Belong Together* (2018). By Toni Wilkinson.

Hir: 'Fascinating and thought-provoking'



Photo: Will O'Mahony and Toni Scanlan, *Hir* (2018). By Daniel James Grant.

Seen on Scene

If you have seen yourself on this page and would like the photo, email cdyball@bsstc.com.au.
For more social pics visit Black Swan's Facebook page.

LET THE RIGHT ONE IN OPENING NIGHT IN THE HEATH LEDGER THEATRE

Photos by Rebecca Mansell



Ian Michael and Marla Rubin



Alan Cransberg, Julie-Ann Gray, Alannah MacTiernan and Rob McKenzie



Charlotte Diaz, Stefan Smith and Daryl Naidu

SUMMER OF THE SEVENTEENTH DOLL OPENING NIGHT IN THE HEATH LEDGER THEATRE



Natalie Jenkins, Nicola Forrest, Giuseppe Rotondella, Lesley Gilmour and Fred Chaney



Anne De Souza, Jenny Silvester and Mike Utsler



Kelton Pell, Ben Elton and Michael Cameron



Alison van Reeken and Mackenzie Dunn

HIR OPENING NIGHT IN THE STUDIO UNDERGROUND



Rebecca Davis, Sarah McNeill and Caroline McKenzie



Brett Smith, Tarryn Gill, Tyler Hill, Lucy Birkinshaw, Cameron Wright and Hugo Aguilar Lopez



Sadie Ward, Alyssia Jodie, Jake Corica and Nick Lawrence

THE THEATRE WE CREATE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

PRINCIPAL PARTNER		GOVERNMENT PARTNER		GOVERNMENT PARTNER	
		 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries		 Black Swan State Theatre Company is supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.	
PRODUCTION FUND FOUNDING PARTNER		ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PARTNER		REGIONAL PARTNER	
BUSINESS ADVISORY PARTNER		PROJECT PARTNERS		PRODUCTION PARTNER	
		 Knowledge grows		 Legal Depth Breadth Presence	
REGIONAL PARTNER		SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNER		FOUNDATION PARTNERS	
REGIONAL PARTNER		PROJECT PARTNER		AIRLINE PARTNER	
SEASON PARTNERS		SEASON PARTNERS		ASSOCIATE PARTNERS	
SEASON PARTNERS		REGIONAL PARTNER		ENTERTAINMENT PARTNER	
PRIVATE GIVING		WINE PARTNER		NEIGHBOURHOOD DINING	
PRODUCTION FUND DONORS		BEER PARTNER			
PATRONS CLUB					
WHITE SWANS					
LOCAL LARRIKINS					
ENCORE DONORS					